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**Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY****LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE**Steve Bullock, Governor
Tracy Stone-Manning, Director

P. O. Box 200901

Helena, MT 59620-0901

(406) 444-2544

Website: www.deq.mt.gov**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-14-27
September 2, 2014**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: City of Billings

FACILITY NAME: City of Billings Wastewater Treatment Plant

FACILITY LOCATION: 725 Highway 87 East, Billings

COUNTY: Yellowstone

RECEIVING WATER: Yellowstone River

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0022586

The City of Billings current wastewater treatment plant consists of a complete mix activated sludge biological plant. The city is upgrading the existing activated sludge biological plant to a biological nutrient removal (BNR) A20 plant in the immediate future to meet effluent limits for nutrients, ammonia, and other pollutants. Under this permit the facility is authorized to discharge treated wastewater to the Yellowstone River at Outfall 003.

On September 21, 2000, a U.S. District Judge issued an order stating that until all necessary total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act are established for a particular water quality limited segment, the State is not to issue any new permits or increase permitted discharges under the MPDES program. The order was issued in the lawsuit *Friends of the Wild Swan v. U.S. EPA, et al.*, CV 97-35-M-DWM, District of

Montana, Missoula Division. DEQ finds that the issuance of this permit does not conflict with the order because it is not a new permit and the permit includes effluent limits that prohibit any increase in pollutants above existing effluent limits.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS October 2, 2014. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS October 2, 2014 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail David Dunbar or Barb Sharpe at WPBPublicNotices@mt.gov.

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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